



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Celebrate National Public Lands Day

Help remove invasive plants in the national park on Saturday, September 30

Brecksville, Ohio - The National Park Service (NPS) at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is seeking volunteers to celebrate National Public Lands Day 2006 by removing invasive, exotic plants from the park on Saturday, September 30. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Happy Days Visitor Center area to manually remove invasive plants such as Japanese multiflora rose, common privet, and Japanese honeysuckle.

Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at Happy Days Visitor Center parking lot on the north side of State Route 303 for a short introduction to exotic plant management, after which they will break into teams and begin removal of invasive plants in and around the area. Happy Days Visitor Center is located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303), about 1 mile west of State Route 8, in Peninsula. To register for the work session call Biological Science Technician Laura Elze at (330) 650- 5071 extension 5.

No previous experience is necessary; new volunteers are encouraged to attend. This event is open to all ages but children under 16 must have a parent or guardian with them and all volunteers under 18 must have a signed parental approval form in order to participate. All volunteer forms will be provided at the check- in table on the day of the work session. Participants should bring drinking water and gardening gloves to protect their hands. Long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy boots are recommended due to potential poison ivy exposure.

Invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to native plant and animal communities. Uncontrolled, they can displace native plants, reduce useable wildlife habitat, and disrupt naturally functioning ecosystems. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to conserve biodiversity in the park by removing invasive plants at this National Public Lands Day work session and at subsequent work sessions held throughout the year.

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For more information about future volunteer opportunities with invasive plant removal, visit www.nps.gov/archive/cuva/friends/invasiveschedule.htm. To learn more about invasive plant management visit www.nps.gov/archive/cuva/management/rmprojects/invasiveplants.htm

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the largest annual coast- to- coast, single- day volunteer work session for America's public lands. As many as 100,000 Americans are expected at 1,000 sites for NPLD in 2006, preserving and protecting their favorite public places for themselves and future generations. NPLD maintains the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps, an army of 3 million Americans who in the 1930's countered the devastation of the Dust Bowl and the American chestnut blight by planting more than 3 billion trees, building 800 state parks, and fighting forest fires. Local examples of the Civilian Conservation Corps workmanship can still be seen in Happy Days Visitor Center, Ledges, Octagon, and Kendall Lake Shelters which were built of wormy American Chestnut wood in the late 1930s.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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